



**NJ Department of Health
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Council Meeting Minutes (ratified)
January 29, 2018**

Council Members Present

Michael Aquino, MD, F.A.C.G., Senate President Appointee; Partner, Shore Gastroenterology Associates; Co-founder, Pathology Solutions

Cheryl F. Dreyfus, Ph.D., Academic Institution Representative; Professor and Chair, Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology, Rutgers University, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

***Caroline Eggerding, MD**, Healthcare Organization Representative; Division Head, Department of Pediatric Neurology and Development, Cooper Children's Regional Hospital

Susan P. Evans, Ed.D., Commissioner of Health Appointee; Education Program Specialist for Early Intervention Program, NJ Department of Health

Wilma Judith Friedman, Ph.D., Academic Institution Representative; Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Rutgers University

B. Madeleine Goldfarb, MA, Autism Organization Representative; Founder/Director of the Noah's Ark Institute

Ketan Kansagra, MD, FAAP, Academic Institution Representative; Neonatologist, Division of Neonatal Medicine, Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Thomas V. Macchiaverna, MA, Public Member Representative; Special Education Teacher

Michele Sorvino, RDMS, Speaker of the General Assembly Appointee; Executive Director, Golden Door International Film Festival of Jersey City

*Denotes Council Chairperson

Absent

Samuel Sheng-Hung Wang, Ph.D., Academic Institution Representative; Professor,
Department of Molecular Biology and Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University

Gary Weitzen, BA, Autism Organization Representative; Executive Director of POAC (Parents of Autistic Children)

NJ Department of Health (DOH) Attendees

Martin T. Zanna MD, MPH, Acting Executive Director
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Linda N. Bocclair, M.Ed., MBA, Executive Assistant
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Mary Ray, Contract Administrator 2
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Commission on Brain Injury Research and Commission on Spinal Cord Research

Daphne Robinson, Ph.D., Consultant
Scientific Planning Consulting

Public Attendees

Gerard Costa, Ph.D., Director, Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at
Montclair State University and Principal Investigator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Karen Hood-Kasim, MPH, Project Coordinator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Eileen McKeating, Ph.D., Research Associate, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Jill Harris, Ph.D., Children's Specialized Hospital

Carrie Coffield, Ph.D., Rutgers University

Lara Delmolino Gatley, Ph.D., Rutgers University

Anna Dulencin, Ph.D., Biomedical Research Consultant, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Richard Dreyfus

Note: Motions are numbered.

I. Welcome - Council Chairperson, Dr. Caroline Eggerding called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and welcomed everyone. She introduced Michele Sorvino, Executive Director, Golden Door International Film Festival of Jersey City as the newest member of the Council. Ms. Sorvino's goal, in her role as Executive Director, is to raise awareness of autism through the arts. Her successes have been acknowledged and supported by Autism Speaks and she has been recognized by Autism One for outstanding service in promoting autism awareness.

II. Public Meetings Act Announcement - Dr. Eggerding read the Public Meetings Act.

III. Approval of the September 18, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes-Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the minutes. MOTION by Dr. Friedman to approve the minutes was seconded by Dr. Dreyfus.

1. MOTION to approve the minutes was passed with five members in favor and three abstentions. One member arrived later (did not vote).

IV. Continuation Funding-CAUT16MED002-Dr. Eggerding noted conditions for continuation funding were included in the Council meeting packets. Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve continuation funding for grant CAUT16MED002. MOTION by Ms. Goldfarb to approve continuation funding for grant CAUT16MED002 was seconded by Dr. Evans.

Discussion: Ms. Karen Hood-Kasim, representing the NJACE Coordinating Center at Montclair University, recommended approval of CAUT16MED002 for continuation funding for the second year of the grant. She stated the grantee had met the conditions and is on track to complete the requirements of the grant. She responded to members' questions.

2. MOTION to approve continuation funding for grant CAUT16MED002 was passed with eight members in favor and one abstention.

V. NJACE Application-CAUT18NJACE006-Dr. Eggerding provided an overview of the grant review process. Three applications were received; however, two of the three did not pass administrative review. The remaining application was reviewed by the Scientific Merit Review Panel and the Council's Scientific Advisory Committee. Dr. Daphne Robinson summarized the results of the reviews noting that while the application had strengths there were levels of substantial concerns. The members of the Scientific Merit Review Panel agreed implementation of the proposal would not accomplish the goals of the NJACE; most notably in advancing autism research in New Jersey. They suggested reposting the RFA with changes intended to encourage participation by autism researchers in the NJACE. The Scientific Advisory Committee agreed.

Discussion: Members asked about the RFA, why the Council did not receive good applications and what happens to funding if not awarded. Dr. Eggerding responded that Council staff are prepared to repost the RFA within a week with recommended changes, if the Council agrees. With fewer restrictions in the reposted RFA it is anticipated autism researchers will apply, resulting in stronger applications. It is possible to fund in SFY18 and not lose the funds.

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Scientific Merit Review Panel and the Scientific Advisory Committee to not fund grant application CAUT18NJACE006. MOTION by Ms. Goldfarb to not approve grant application CAUT18NJACE006 was seconded by Dr. Friedman.

3. MOTION to not approve grant application CAUT18NJACE006 was passed with all nine members in favor.

V. Status of SFY19 RFA-Fellowships and Clinical Research Pilot Projects-Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) announcing the fellowship and clinical research pilot projects will be posted on the Department of Health's website in February 2018 with the RFA and application available in June 2018.

VI. Revision of the Council's Rules of Order -Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the revised Rules of Order. MOTION by Ms. Goldfarb to approve the revised Rules of Order was seconded by Dr. Aquino.

Discussion: Members reviewed each of revisions recommended by the Autism Council staff in consultation with Dr. Eggerding. The revisions were accepted with a couple of modifications.

4. MOTION to approve the revised Rules of Order was passed with all nine members in favor.

VII. NJ ACE Coordinating Center Update-Dr. Gerald Costa reported the Center (1) continued to monitor grantees' progress reports, (2) hosted the October 6, 2017 Autism Summit Part II, (3) is working on the Proceedings of the Summit, (4) is writing procedures for transitioning the NJACE grant, (5) attended the Autism NJ Conference in Atlantic City in November and (6) conducted site visits for the new grantees and one current medical home grantee.

VIII. Report of the Acting Executive Director- Martin T. Zanna, MD, MPH-Dr. Zanna thanked Dr. Costa for his report.

Council Membership-The Council has three seats available for members – one for an individual with autism or family member with autism and two autism organization representatives. We are working with Maria Medina, our new contact in the Commissioner's office, to fill these

openings. If you know of anyone who may be interested in serving please ask them to contact Linda Bocclair for information.

Ethics Requirements-Several members have not completed the annual Ethics Training requirement for Special State Officers (SSO). Linda will send a reminder. The deadline for completion was December 31, 2017.

DOH Administration

Governor Phil Murphy appointed Dr. Shereef Elnahal, a physician and U.S. Veterans Affairs official, as the Acting Commissioner of Health. The Autism Council staff reports to the Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning a position we anticipate will be filled within the next couple of months. In the meantime, Colette Lamothe-Galette is serving as Acting Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning.

Funding

At the last Council meeting members were told there was only \$1.5 M available to fund SFY19 grants and that funds would build from there with funding reaching higher levels in the future. We had anticipated that grant funds could be encumbered for the full period of the grants instead of funds available for only one year at a time. Although we attempted to pre-encumber the 2018 grant cycle funds they were placed in reserve and remain in reserve. What this means is while Council can anticipate approximately \$3.6 M revenue annually a sizable portion of those funds will be used to fund the second year of previous grants in addition to the \$750,000 to fund the Autism Registry and the Autism NJ hotline leaving any remaining revenue to fund new grants. I want you to be aware of the change in the funding information you received at the last meeting given actions by the Treasury in placing funds in reserve.

IX. Election of Council Chairperson

Dr. Eggerding was nominated to serve as the Chairperson for 2018. There were no additional nominations. Members voted and elected Dr. Eggerding as Chairperson for 2018. Dr. Zanna congratulated Dr. Eggerding. Dr. Eggerding thanked the members.

X. Report of Revenues and Expenditures

Copies of the Report of Revenues and Expenditures were sent to Council members for their information.

XI. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

XII. Adjournment - Dr. Eggerding asked for a motion to adjourn.

5. MOTION to adjourn by Dr. Friedman and seconded by Dr. Dreyfus was approved with all members in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.